[English]

Setting up of Power Project

324. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number and details of Power Projects recommended by the Government of Gujarat in public or private sector;

(b) the fuels suggested for these proposed 'Power Projects; and

(c) the number out of these projects to whom fuel linkage has been granted by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Use of Energy

325. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India energy consumption large. . ." appeared in the daily 'Statesman' dated 22.5.1997 wherein it is stated that 'India uses energy relatively inefficiently';

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken during Ninth Plan period to meet the growing demand of energy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due attention is being paid to increase the efficiency of use of various forms of energy and to limit the pollution and other environmental fall-outs of energy production, processing, conversion and supply.

Sukhinda Chrome Ore Mines

326. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has recommended for leasing out of Sukhinda's Chrome ore mining area to private sector companies;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have now received the recommendations of the State Government for approval;

(c) whether huge kickbacks have been involved in leasing out the land to private companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mineral Concessions are granted as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. Any decision on proposal of the State Government in the instant case has to be taken in accordance with the judgement dated 4.4.1995 of Hon'ble High Court of Orissa in O.J.C. Nos. 7729/93, 4701/94, 3825/94, 5422/94 and 7054/94 etc. and Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement dated 23.7.96 in S.L.P. Nos. 10838/95, 11391/95, 11392/95 etc.

(c) As per records available no such information has been received by the Central Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Migration from Western Orissa due to Drought situation

327. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the unprecedented drought situation in Western Orissa and the consequent migration of people to the tonship in search of employment;

(b) if so, the proposals before the Government to provide job avenues for the rural unemployed persons and to remedy the situation; and

(c) the quantum of funds allotted to Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar to provide job opportunities to the rural unemployed youths during 1995-96, 1996-97 and in 1997-98 so far ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOY-